



101 Critical Days of Summer

Safety Tip #9 - Travel Safety



When traveling you have to be prepared for anything. Whether it's a weekend away or the vacation of a lifetime, a little time away from home can be full of fun and adventure. For some families and business travelers however, the prospect of traveling in the wake of 9/11 might seem a little frightening. The good news is that with a little extra planning and attention to detail, vacations and business trips can still be safe, enjoyable and productive.

In fact, governmental agencies have focused lots of attention on travel safety over the past few years. New security procedures at airports and in planes have made air travel safer. The travel and tourism industry has also strengthened programs to ensure that people can enjoy road trips, hotel stays, and destination visits with confidence.



As always in these times, it makes sense to be alert and observant. We should always be aware of our surroundings and report any suspicious activities to the authorities. In selecting routes and destinations, we should avoid locations where there is active hostility. And it is always wise to be knowledgeable about our destination, to have planned our trip carefully, and to be courteous guests when we travel.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW TO PLAN A SAFE TRIP

- ❖ Start early. Allow enough planning time to research your destination and to find the best routes. Take advantage of resources like the Automobile Club, visitors' bureaus, and websites to plan your trip and make reservations.
- ❖ Learn what conditions are like in the place you plan to go. If you're flying within the U.S. or leaving the country, check the US State Department for travel advisories:
<http://travel.state.gov/> and
http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Usgrresponse/Travel_Safely.shtml
- ❖ Get appropriate inoculations or certificates of inoculation that you might need.
- ❖ Make sure your identification, passports, driver's license, emergency contact lists and insurance are all up to date.
- ❖ Have enough cash and credit for your planned trip and to handle any emergencies that might arise during your travel.

TO TRAVEL SAFELY BY CAR

- ❖ Before you go, safety-check your vehicle's hoses, belts, radiator, coolant, oil, battery, tires and spare, filters, windshield wipers, lights, and turn signals.
- ❖ Always wear your seatbelt, and ensure that children under 12 years of age are in the back seats and in appropriate seats and restraints.
- ❖ Keep maps and papers ready and within arm's reach.
- ❖ Select your radio station before you start the engine, so that you won't be distracted later.
- ❖ Don't use cell phones while driving.
- ❖ Never leave children or pets in a closed car.
- ❖ Don't bring agricultural products across state lines, and never carry fruits and vegetables out of a quarantined area.



TO PACK FOR A SAFE TRIP

- ✦ Strictly obey rules on what you can and can't carry on an airplane. (For the most current information, see the sites mentioned above.)
- ✦ Don't lock your luggage. Instead, carry a few plastic cable ties to secure zippers. If Federal Security Screeners need to open and search your bag, they will leave a note inside the bag and use a cable tie to close the zipper again.
- ✦ Put personal belongings in clear plastic bags so that screeners can see them without handling them.
- ✦ Pack footwear on top of other items in your suitcase.
- ✦ Don't pack food and drink items in checked baggage.
- ✦ Bring only as much luggage as airline rules permit.
- ✦ Use only your name and/or phone number on luggage tags. Do not display any unnecessary identification, as this could attract criminals. If you put your name and address then they will know where you live and that you won't be home!! Use luggage tags that have a flap to cover the owner's identity.
- ✦ If you are carrying gifts, wait to wrap them until you arrive at your destination
- ✦ Fill medical prescriptions prior to departure and carry duplicate prescriptions in case of loss. (Keep prescriptions and medication in carry-on luggage). Check with the locations you are traveling to if any medications are banned or illegal.
- ✦ If you have any physical condition that may require emergency care, purchase and carry some kind of identification: tag, bracelet, or card on you at all times indicating the specific nature of your problem and what should be done in the event you are unconscious or unable to communicate.



TO PROTECT YOUR HOME IN YOUR ABSENCE

- Arrange to stop your mail, newspapers, and other routine deliveries.
- Have a neighbor keep plants watered, pick up packages, and check the house from time-to-time.
- Leave copies of your itinerary, passport data page and visas with a trusted friend, so you can be contacted in case of an emergency.



Excellent site with lots of information: <http://www.familytravelguides.com/tips.html>

Traveling with kids? Check this site out: <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/travelsafetytips.htm>

Flying at all? Here's another government site that will give you lots of information about the airports, what you can carry on and what you can't, etc.: <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/assistant/index.shtm>

You Never Know What You'll Find

While You are Traveling, So Be Safe!! - Your Risk Management Staff!



This document was derived from multiple sources. Sources are available upon request in the 157 ARW/SE Office.